

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/743,551

Examiner

Shelly A. Chase

Applicant(s)

TSUNODA, MASAHIKO

Art Unit

2133

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed 12-23-2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12-23-03 9-15-04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


SHELLY CHASE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 to 15 are presented for examination.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119, which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The references listed in the information disclosure statement submitted on 12-33-2003 have been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1 to 15 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art made of record teaches a method and an apparatus for error correction of a recording and reproducing device using erasure pointer information. For instance, Mori et al. (USP 7055082 B2) discloses an information recording and reproducing apparatus that generates an erasure pointer in response to a burst error and uses the generated erasure pointer in the erasure correction process. Maeda et al. (USP 6697989 B1) discloses a method and apparatus for error correction comprising an inhibition pattern detector/counter (14), an erasure correction information storage circuit (16) and an error

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correction incapability judge/control circuit (15) coupled to other components wherein the detector/counter detect abnormal patterns that do not confirm to the modulation rule, and the error correction incapability judge/control circuit determine that the data output from the detector/counter is uncorrectable and the erasure storage means stores the uncorrectable data as erasures.

However, the prior art made of record fails to teach or fairly suggest or render obvious the novel element of the instant invention. Specifically, the prior art made of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest or render obvious the limitation of "a programmable erasure pointer generator which sets, in the erasure pointer memory, special pointer information indicating a location as an error location, in accordance with an erasure pointer setting command from the host, the location being designated by the erasure pointer setting command, the special pointer information set in the erasure pointer memory being used by the error correction circuit to correct an error in data written to the recording medium by executing the special write command, and read therefrom in accordance with an normal read command from the host."

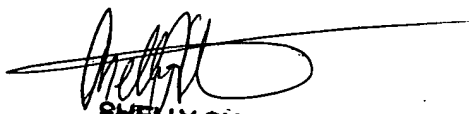
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shelly A. Chase whose telephone number is 571-272-3816. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on 571-272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


SHELLY CHASE
PRIMARY EXAMINER